

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 FDRE-00 AGR-10 PC-05

OES-03 USIA-15 INR-07 SWF-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 /135 W

----- 077593

R 211225Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8687

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 2736

AFDROUGHT

E O 11652: NA

SUBJ: TERMINATION KING GRAIN AIRLIFT FOR CHAD

1. THE THIRD AND LAST USAF C-130 DEPARTED NDJAMENA SHORTLY AFTER NOON TODAY, OCTOBER 21, THUS TERMINATING OPERATION KING GRAIN CHAD. THE AIRLIFT HAD SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED 1,382 METRIC TONS OF AMERICAN FOOD RELIEF OUT OF A PROPOSED 2,000 TONS TO SIX REMOTE LOCATIONS IN CHAD WHEN IT WAS ENDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD FOR EXTRANEIOUS REASONS.

2. FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE KING GRAIN CHAD OPERATION SIX WEEKS AGO, KING GRAIN CHAD COMMANDER MAJOR LAFLAMBOY AND THE OFFICERS AND MEN UNDER HIS COMMAND HAVE DEMONSTRATED EXCEPTIONAL DEDICATION, UNFAILING GOOD HUMOR, AND MUCH HARD WORK. MEMBERS OF THE STAFFS OF THE EMBASSY, THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE, AID, USIS, THE PEACE CORPS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO ACCOMPANIED KING GRAIN FLIGHTS AS INTERPRETORS, HAVE BEEN BOTH IMPRESSED WITH AND PROUD OF THE PROFESSIONALISM DEMONSTRATED BY KING GRAIN PERSONNEL. WE ARE CONVINCED AS WELL THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CHADIAN CITIZENS WHO WILL BENEFIT MOST DIRECTLY FROM THESE GIFTS

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OF GRAIN APPRECIATE IN FULL MEASURE THE SOURCE FROM WHICH IT

CAME AND THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS DELIVERED. MANY CHADIANS, SUCH AS THE YOUNG MOTHER WITH A SERIOUSLY ILL FOUR-DAY OLD INFANT WHO WERE TRANSPORTED FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE SAHARA TO THE HOSPITAL IN NDJAMENA, HAVE ADDITIONAL PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF THE SPIRIT OF KING GRAIN.

3. THE RECORD SHOULD ALSO REFLECT THE SINCERE PERSONAL AND OFFICIAL APPRECIATION GOC DROUGHT COORDINATOR AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS DJONOUMA EXTENDED TO MAJOR LAFLAMBOY AND MYSELF THE DAY BEFORE THE AIRLIFT WAS TERMINATED. ALTHOUGH NO MORE WAS HEARD OF THE RECEPTION HONORING THE KING GRAIN PERSONNEL WHICH THE MINISTER HAD EARLIER PROPOSED, MINISTER DJONOUMA TOOK THE OCCASION OF HIS LAST MEETING WITH THE KING GRAIN CHAD COMMANDER FOLLOWING THE END OF THE AIRLIFT TO RENEW EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION.

4. IN SUM, KING GRAIN CHAD PERSONNEL, AS WELL AS THEIR EXCELLENT BACK-UP SUPPORT IN BAMAKO AND THE US, DESERVE WARM COMMENDATION FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE OF A DIFFICULT MISSION IN AN EXEMPLARY FASHION.DWYER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AFDROUGHT, GRAINS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NDJAME02736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740301-0114
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741031/aaaaazsn.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERMINATION KING GRAIN AIRLIFT FOR CHAD
TAGS: EAID
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005